

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 10119 231652Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /131 W
-----240351Z 108430 /63

R 231524Z DEC 76
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2149
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 10119

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJ: TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS - MALAYSIA

REF: (A) JAKARTA 16383, (B) MTN GENEVA 9226
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 7150

1. US MTN DEL CONTACTED YEE CHE FONG TO DISCUSS REF (A.).
FONG INDICATED THAT ASEAN JOINT MEMORANDUM WAS CAREFULLY
NEGOTIATED IN ASEAN, GENEVA GROUP, AND ALTHOUGH REFLECTING
A COMMON POSITION, SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. IN
THIS CONTEXT, HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT NO MENTION,
EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, WAS MADE CONCERNING US
POSITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. FONG STATED THAT OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD LIKELY
FOLLOW PHILIPPINE LEAD IN TP NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF ITS
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PREDOMINANT INTEREST, BUT THAT APPARENTLY AMBASSADOR
VEGA RECEIVED NO SUPPORT FOR HIS INITIATIVE (SEE REF (B))
IN MANILA. HE ALSO OPINED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF
BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED
MANILA'S ATTITUDE.

3. FONG THEN INQUIRED IN MTN DEL HAD NOT HAD A MORE POSITIVE REPORT FROM KUALA LUMPUR (REF (C)). MTN DEL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EMBASSY HAD REPORTED CONTACT WITH MUTALIB, AND THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND GENEVA WERE ENCOURAGING. FONG ELABORATED THAT SERIOUS ANALYSIS OF US REQUESTS WAS UNDERWAY AS PART OF THE BUDGET PREPARATION, AND THAT HE "HAD A HUNCH THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING IN THE AREA OF LICENSING". HE REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MRS. NORRAESHA TO MONITOR PROGRESS.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL DETAILED CONVERSATIONS WITH FONG ON THE US OFFER AND POSITION IN THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP. FONG HAS SEVERAL TIMES INDICATED A DESIRE TO WORK AROUND THE RHETORICAL POSTURING IN THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP AND OTHER AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME HIS ABILITY TO FIND PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS IS CONSTRAINED BY COMMON ASEAN AND LDC POSITIONS. IN THIS RESPECT, HIS REQUEST THAT THE EMBASSY MONITOR PROGRESS IS CONVENIENTLY BILATERAL. FONG ALSO RECOGNIZES THE LIMITATIONS OF A CIVIL SERVANT WHO CAN ONLY RECOMMEND A COURSE OF ACTION. FOR THIS REASON HE CONTINUES TO PROBE FOR SOME POSITIVE US MOVE TO PROVIDE THE POLITICAL REASON/ EXCUSE TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUESTS. FONG UNFORTUNATELY SEEMS TO THINK THE ONLY KINDS OF POSITIVE US MOVES THAT MAY UNBLOCK THINGS ARE IMPLEMENTATION BY US WITHOUT LDC CONTRIBUTIONS OR UNILATERAL US IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING OFFER. WALKER
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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